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West Virginia NRCS News and Views

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
May 2005

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From the Field

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2005 Grassland Evaluation Contest



The 2005 Grassland Evaluation Contest was held in Jackson's Mill on April 8 at the Nelson Bean farm in Lewis County. [...More Info](#)

2005 Landjudging

On Tuesday, April 26th, the Southern Conservation District and the Greenbrier Valley Conservation District held their 2005 Landjudging Contest at the Plant Material Center in Alderson, West Virginia. Eleven teams participated. [...More Info](#)

9th Annual WV Envirothon

Over 200 Students from Across the State Compete in Largest Event Yet. [...More Info](#)

WV takes a leading role with National Animal Identification System (NAIS)

Farmers in West Virginia are embracing the animal identification program, with almost 2,500 of them registering their premises over the past few months. The state has taken a leading role in moving forward with the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) by encouraging participation in its Premises Identification System. Read more at: http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/about/spotlights/WV_spotlight_0405.pdf (PDF 22KB)

A Partner in Conservation Since 1935



The Natural Resources Conservation Service marked its 70th anniversary on April 27, 2005. [..More Info](#)

[The Earth Team Celebrates 20 Years](#)



Here are some questions to ask a volunteer. This will help us find the best fit for the volunteer's interests. [..More Info](#)

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West Virginia Farmers' Connections Guide 2004, Retired SCS employee writes about Childhood Days on Farm, National NRCS Publications Distribution Center shipping again. [..More Info](#)

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Herb Andrick, Greg Stone, and Bill O'Donnell. [..More Info](#)

[Lillian Woods goes to DC](#)

Lillian Woods, West Virginia State Conservationist from 2002 to 2005, joined the staff

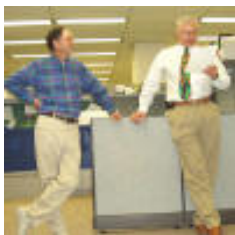
of the Deputy Chief for Science and Technology in Washington, D.C. ...[More Info](#)

[Congratulations, Marlene](#)



Marlene (McDaniel) Menear, former editor on the MO-13 staff in Morgantown, was honored by friends, coworkers, and family members at a retirement dinner at the Preston County Country Club on Saturday, April 9, 2005. ...[More Info](#)

[Lynn Shutts Retires](#)



Lynn Shutts, Environmental and Biological Science Specialist in the West Virginia State Office, was honored on his last day of work on April 29. ...[More Info](#)

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To submit news items for the August *News and Views*, please send an e-mail message to [Carol Lagodich](#)

The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain and improve our natural resources and environment.

NRCS West Virginia State Office

75 High Street Room 301, Morgantown, WV 26505

304-284-7540 | fax 304-284-4839

<http://www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov/>

Ronald L Hilliard, West Virginia State Conservationist

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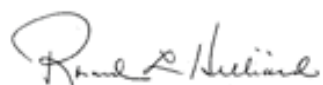
State Conservationist Message

I want to thank all of you for the warm welcome and your hard work, persistence and great attitude in delivering quality service to our customers. I have heard many positive comments from our partners on your enthusiasm and willingness to cooperate. I am aware that many of you do things that go above and beyond normal expectations and I thank you for going the extra mile.

As NRCS celebrated its 70th anniversary, the Chief said he will be preparing for the next farm bill, but our job is to concentrate on implementation of the 2002 Farm Bill, streamline conservation planning and implementation, and improve efficiency in programs. Some specifics he mentioned were:

- Focus on private working lands by helping people who are making a living on the farm continue to do so.
- Maintain the credibility of the agency in the face of what is expected to be flat budgets in the near future.
- Improve NRCS programs through innovation and coordination, provide incentives for results-oriented activity and not just for practices applied, and improve selection criteria for funded projects.
- Continue to build upon our "World Class Delivery System" and emphasize sound ethics, trust and working partnerships.

Despite the current emphasis on change, our conservation mission remains constant. Thanks for your dedication to protecting and improving West Virginia's natural resources.



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From the Field**Little Kanawha RC&D Grant Writing Workshop Succes**

The Little Kanawha RC&D Council recently co-sponsored a Grant Writing Workshop in partnership with the Upper Ohio Conservation District and Tyler County Senior Center.

The Senior Center in Middlebourne was host to 30 participants for the workshop including individuals from schools, non-profit organizations, law enforcement, churches, businesses, watershed groups, conservation districts and a whole host of other disciplines.

Kurt Simon, Coordinator with Little Kanawha RC&D instructed the course which is certified through West Virginia University for Continuing Education Credits.

Topics include researching funding sources, assembling documents, working on budgets, conducting evaluations, project planning and understanding philanthropy.

Carroll Cumberledge, RC&D Council Chairman attended the course and was pleased with the turnout. The event was such a success the RC&D Council has decided to conduct additional sessions in the future. The Council is also in the planning stages for creating a full service grants research library at the RC&D office. The library is planned to be open to the public later this year.

For more information contact Kurt Simon at the [Little Kanawha RC&D Office](#) at 304-679-3639.

West Fork Agricultural Field Day

The West Fork Agricultural Field Day is Saturday, May 21, 2005. The

location is the Greg Moore Farm, east of Bridgeport on U.S. Rt. 50 near Maple Lake.

Program topics include:

- Ultrasounding Beef Cattle
- Herd Health Management
- Brush control with herbicides
- Quality of Replacement Heifers
- Installing a rubber tire trough

Programs will begin at 9:00 am; Lunch will be provided by the West Fork Conservation District.

For more information contact Jeff Griffith at the [Mount Clare Service Center](#) at 304-624-9232.

Mountain RC&D Projects

Mountain RC&D has been working with the Wastewater Treatment Coalition of McDowell County on the implementation of its county wide plan. This coalition of private citizen, non-profits, faith-based, and governmental organizations came together following the flood events of 2001 and 2002. The floods created an urgency for sewage projects to meet family and community needs.

Following two years of exhausting work this March a comprehensive wastewater management plan was published. The Coalition has been told that this county wide planning effort is only one of a handful completed in the entire country, and is being held high as model for others to follow. Now the implementation of the plan begins. Ninety six project areas have been identified and prioritized. Current and innovative technologies will be utilized in the development of individual home systems, small cluster systems, community package systems along with traditional sewage line

extensions.

Mountain RC&D as one of many financial supporters of the Upper Guyandotte Watershed Association saw another success today with the awarding of a \$9,000 grant from WV DEP's 319 fund. These monies will be used for the development of a comprehensive non-point source watershed plan. Completion of the plan is expected in the next 12 months.

This spring Mountain RC&D working with the Paint Creek By-Ways received good news from the WV Turnpike Authority in the form of the acceptance and authorization to use 26 acres of land owned by the Authority. The property will be developed as a park and trail area near the community of Pax. Paint Creek By-Ways Committee is also sponsoring a St Jude's Children's Hospital bike-a-thon on May 28, 2005 at 10:00 A.M. For more information contact Mike Gasper at the number below.

For more information contact Mike Gasper at the [Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Office](#) at 304-469-9738.

Earth Day Tree Planting

The Potomac Headwaters RC&D Council and Project Office coordinated a commemorate tree planting at the Poor House Farm Park, Berkeley Co. Modern Woodmen of America paid the expenses. Boy Scout Troop 412 is did the planting. Bonnie Shawyer, VISTA Acid Mine Remediation Coordinator, also participated in the tree planting.

For more information contact Roger Boyer at the [Potomac Headwaters RC&D Office](#) at 304-267-8953 - Ext 3314.

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CSP Public Meetings

West Virginia NRCS held five evening public meetings to introduce the Conservation Security Program (CSP) area landowners and operators. Herb Andrick or Rick Heaslip presented a Powerpoint Presentation explaining the newest soil and water stewardship program available in three West Virginia watersheds.

The Little Muskingum/Middle Island Creek Watershed is an eligible watershed in Ohio and West Virginia. Each state held three evening meetings. In WV, the first meeting took place on Feb 23 in West Union. Jeff Griffith introduced Herb Andrick. Rick Patterson hosted meetings on Feb 24 in New Martinsville and on March 1 in St. Marys. The watershed encompasses parts of Doddridge, Tyler, Wetzel, Wood, Marshall and Pleasants Counties in West Virginia.



Jeff Griffith introduced
Herb Andrick



The first meeting took
place on Feb 23 in
West Union



Herb Andrick presented a
Powerpoint Presentation

Photos by LaRae Baker

On March 1, John Cox hosted the Elk River watershed in Gassaway, WV. The Elk watershed includes parts of Braxton, Clay, Kanawha, Nicholas, Pocahontas, Randolph, Roane, and Webster counties.

The Twelvepole Creek watershed meeting, organized by Alan Boone and Michael Marks, took place on March 3 in Wayne, WV. The Twelvepole Creek watershed includes parts of Cabell, Lincoln, Logan, and Wayne counties.

“Even though the weather did not cooperate with some of the meetings, I am well pleased with our farmers participation at the meetings” said Herb Andrick, Assistant State Conservationist–Programs.

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Knapps Creek Demonstration Project

Submitted by TJ Burr

[PDF version 389 KB](#)

This article will appear in the May/June issue of *Land and Water*.

Introduction

The Knapps Creek natural stream restoration project is an ongoing demonstration project in Pocahontas County, West Virginia. Knapps Creek meanders through a rural mountain setting with a fertile floodplain surrounded by Appalachian Mountains reaching up to an elevation of 4,477 feet. Site 24, which is the first of many potential sites in the Knapps Creek Watershed, was installed in 2004. Landowners along portions of Knapps Creek have experienced problems with streambank erosion, loss of cropland, sedimentation, and flooding for years. Some of the problems stemmed from recent land use practices and some were caused from harmful land uses dating back to the 1870s. Project partners decided that the problems needed to be corrected to keep the situation from getting worse. The land was and continues to be used for agricultural purposes, primarily livestock grazing and hay production. Partners in this demonstration project want to fix the problems while maintaining the pastoral setting and a viable agricultural economy.



Photo 1, Pre-construction: View is looking upstream at the starting point for Site 24. Note the eroding banks, excessively wide and shallow channel, and deposition of mid-channel bars.



Photo 2, Post-construction (Same area as shown in Photo 1): View is looking upstream at the beginning of the reconstructed channel for Site 24. Natural stream design features include the sloped banks protected by seeding, woody transplants, fence to separate livestock from restored areas, reduced channel width, and a rock vane.

Project Goals and Benefits

The watershed plan identifies natural stream channel restoration methods to stabilize the channel, restore natural meanders, create wetlands, reduce streambank erosion (and loss of cropland), and enhance aquatic and riparian wildlife habitat. There are several examples of natural design techniques used for streambank stabilization in West Virginia. This is the first work to fully restore a stable meander pattern and channel profile with a range of bank stabilizing practices. In the long run, the partners hope their goals will be met with a self-maintaining natural stream system.

A major benefit from this project will be the restoration of the environment to a more natural state. Boulder clusters, constructed pools and riffles, and vegetation transplants will be used to improve the aquatic habitat of the stream to boost the populations of smallmouth bass, darters, minnows, and other fish found in Knapps Creek. Alternative designs using rock rip-rapped bank protection, grouted riprap, or trapezoidal concrete channels would not provide these benefits.

The demonstration project serves as an educational tool to increase public awareness of natural stream channel restoration. Field tours of the completed work have been open to the public to view the results. Site 24 was incorporated into the course curriculum for a class offered by West Virginia University (WVU) during the summer of 2004, providing a “real world” classroom for teaching natural stream channel restoration.

Natural stream restoration projects generally do not include flood reduction as a benefit, but can reduce flood-related damages. At Site 24, flood levels for high frequency events remain essentially unchanged. The stream continues to have access to its floodplain. Maintaining the floodplain is an important and distinctive feature that sets natural stream restoration apart from constructed channels designed to contain floodwaters within a uniform trapezoidal or rectangular channel.



Photo 3, Post-construction: View looking downstream along the beginning of the re-constructed channel. Note the sloped banks with re-established grass, rock vane, and woody transplants to protect the streambank.

Project Partners

It takes many things to make a project successful, but few components are more important than a cooperative partnership. Good communications and cooperation among the partners were critical to the success of this project. Landowners in the Knapps Creek valley organized and

formed the Upper Knapps Creek Watershed Association, which is the cornerstone for the project. As a landmark project in West Virginia (WV), this project attracted interest from numerous partners. Technical, financial, and administrative assistance came from several sources, including the WV Conservation Agency, Canaan Valley Institute, Greenbrier Valley Conservation District, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (Region III), WV Division of Natural Resources, USDA Farm Service Agency, WVU, USDA Forest Service, WV Department of Environmental Protection.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Fish America Foundation, consultants, and contractor. Two professional consultants provided invaluable assistance to the project. Clear Creek Consulting (Jarrettsville, MD) prepared the base-level planning documents for the entire watershed. Buck Engineering (Charlotte, NC) prepared the design documents for Site 24 and provided technical support during construction. The construction contractor, Smith Brothers (Lanchester, KY), was recognized as the 2004 WV Conservation Contractor of the Year for their work at Knapps Creek Site 24. Other indirect partners will play a future role in the success of the project by the way they use the land in the watershed. Everyone who lives, works, visits or plays in the watershed can have a positive role in protecting the natural environment.

Watershed and History

Knapps Creek is a tributary to the Greenbrier River located in east-central West Virginia in Pocahontas County, a rural area consisting mostly of forested mountains and farmland. Most of the watershed is in the Monongahela National Forest. A wide valley floor provides good agricultural land that is privately owned. Land for Site 24 along the banks of Knapps Creek is used for agricultural purposes, primarily pasture and hay production. Landowners along Knapps Creek have lost some of their usable land due to streambank erosion and sediment deposition during floods.



Photo 4, Pre-construction: View looking downstream through the first channel bend. Note the wide, shallow channel, point bar, gravel deposition, and streambank erosion. The landowner uses the footbridge to cross the stream during high flows to care for cattle.

Knapps Creek starts near Paddy Knob (4,477 feet) on the West Virginia -Virginia border at an

elevation of 3,800 feet. It flows about 18 miles to its confluence with Douthat Creek in Minnehaha Springs (2,320 feet). With an average slope of 1.5%, Knapps Creek continues downstream to Marlinton where it enters the Greenbrier River. The Knapps Creek watershed consists of ridges and peaks with steep valley side slopes that are heavily wooded. The local climate produces an annual average rainfall of 47 inches and 34 inches of snowfall. The mean annual stream flow in Marlinton, West Virginia is 149 cubic feet per second (cfs) with a normal flow range of 36 to 318 cfs (there are 7.48 gallons in one cubic foot). Annual peak discharges from 1947 to 1996 ranged from 2,940 cfs to 22,000 cfs.



Photo 5, Post-construction: View looking downstream at the same channel as in Photo 4. Note the restored streambank with vegetation and rock vane to protect the bank from future erosion. A new meander was created just beyond the rock vane where the channel had previously been straightened.

Some of the impacts from past land uses, dating back to the 1870s, are still evident upon the landscape even as nature gradually reestablishes its hold. Timber harvesting removed most of the trees from the mountainsides between 1870 and 1930. This resulted in widespread soil erosion and stream sedimentation. Forest fires, some caused by hot cinders from steam locomotives, also played a part in the destruction of the land cover. When it rained, gullies formed and topsoil washed away. Better-managed logging operations continue to this day, but still have adverse impacts on the watershed. Some tributaries support healthy trout populations, yet others have been impacted by agricultural operations, logging and alteration of the natural stream channels.

Portions of the natural channel were straightened in an attempt to control the creek and preserve farmland. In some areas, livestock grazing has contributed to trampling of streambeds and banks resulting in over widening of the channel and mid-channel bar development. Even with natural stream restoration measures to stabilize the creek, long-term success requires better management of the land in the watershed to prevent excessive erosion. One important management practice needed is the establishment of grazing limitations along established buffer zones of the creek.



Photo 6, Post-construction: View shows a step-pool outlet channel carrying flow from a new wetland area back into the main channel. The step-pool channel was created using rock sills. The new wetland area was created from a portion of the original channel that had been straightened. The meander was reconstructed to bypass the old straightened channel.

Planning

The overall watershed plan identified 25 numbered restoration sites along the main stem and several tributaries of Knapps Creek. Initial funding levels were sufficient to design and construct the first few sites, but not all of them. This meant that someone had to prioritize the sites and establish an implementation plan. The Upper Knapps Creek Watershed Association established the priorities considering input from the numerous assisting partners. After several discussions and planning sessions, five sites were selected for early implementation. It was decided that Site 24 would be the first to be designed and constructed.

Project Scope & Natural Design Features

The scope of Site 24 was to re-establish the meander pattern, the cross-sectional area, and the channel bottom profile for 2,643 feet of stream channel using the principles of fluvial geomorphology. Two full meanders, four pools, and two constructed wetlands were installed. Bank protection measures included rock vanes, root wads, woody vegetation transplants, fiber matting, seeding, and mulching. The drainage area specific to Site 24 was 47.35 square miles with a design discharge of 2,164 cfs (stream flow at bankfull depth). The stream type, according to morphological descriptions defined by David Rosgen in *Applied River Morphology* (1996), is a C4. This generally means the stream is a slightly entrenched, meandering, gravel-dominated, riffle/pool channel with a well-developed floodplain. The design gradient (slope) for this portion of the stream was 0.0018 feet/foot (0.18%). The design channel cross-sectional area was 380 square feet with a mean depth of 5.2 feet.

Fencing and livestock watering facilities were installed under the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program administered by the USDA Farm Service Agency. These measures are essential to separate livestock from the restored stream corridor while vegetation is established.

During the restoration of natural meanders, sections of the existing channel were abandoned

making a perfect opportunity for the creation of wetlands. Two wetland areas were constructed in these abandoned channel sections. On-site vegetative materials, transplants, and wetland soils were used as seed sources for the new wetlands. Water levels in the wetlands are controlled by log weirs. Both of the wetlands included the construction of outlet channels using a step-pool design. This stable outlet channel allows the wetland to drain excess water back into the main channel of Knapps Creek.



Photo 7, Post Construction: View looking downstream at constructed meander bend. Mature trees were left in place. The riffle-pool sequence was constructed to add diversity in the bottom profile of the stream.

Construction

Construction was undertaken using a competitive bid process via a federal contract. Work was completed during the summer of 2004 over a span of about three months from June to August. Construction was accomplished with conventional equipment and methods. The largest piece of equipment used was a medium sized hydraulic excavator (CAT 325C). The contractor made a special effort to tread lightly upon the landscape only disturbing areas as required. Even though strict construction specifications were used, the contractor did a good job of following the intent of the project and met or exceeded expectations.



Photo 8, Post-construction (same meander bend as in Photo 7): Photo shows reconstructed portion of channel where the meander was restored. Natural design elements shown are the root wads, woody vegetation (willows), rock vane, and preserved mature trees. The rock vane will protect the bank and maintain pool depth for aquatic habitat diversity.

Monitoring

Monitoring is essential to measure the success or failure of any project. Several of the project partners are watching Site 24 to compare expectations with actual results. The NRCS made a thorough attempt to monitor the construction process by site visitation, photography, and meticulous documentation. Other monitoring efforts will include a comparison of pre-construction bank erosion rates to post-construction erosion rates. West Virginia University faculty and

students are measuring the aquatic habitat through pre-and post-construction assessments. The WV Division of Natural Resources completed a baseline fish survey and will complete post construction surveys. A detailed site map was prepared to document locations and angles that photos were taken from, which is invaluable in comparing "before" and "after" construction conditions. Monitoring efforts will continue at Site 24 and other future sites in the Knapps Creek demonstration project. Feedback from these monitoring efforts will be used to improve the design and construction of other natural stream-channel restoration projects.

Project Costs

Project costs are always hard to monitor, especially when several entities are involved in the planning, design and construction process. However, one of the secondary objectives for this project was to generate cost data for a natural stream restoration project. The NRCS determined the measurable costs associated with the installation at Site 24, which does not include personnel and other expenses for some of the early planning activities that brought it to fruition. The total cost (2004 dollars) for the Site 24 project was \$188 per Linear Foot (LF) with a breakdown of \$42/LF for design; \$117/LF for construction; and \$29/LF for construction administration. This cost is consistent with other data obtained by the author of \$200 per LF for natural stream restoration estimates through urban areas in North Carolina.

When looking at these costs one must remember there is a multitude of variables affecting design and construction costs. These costs are not transferable in the same manner as other traditional types of construction (rock riprap, concrete channels, pipe, etc.). However, it provides an order of magnitude for the cost of completing this type of project. As a cost comparison, the estimated cost to armor the same length of streambank (both sides) with rock riprap would be \$213 per LF (assuming 24% of construction cost for design and construction administration). Rock riprap would also have some design costs. Of course, rock riprap would only protect the streambank with armoring and would not blend with the natural setting or restore the aquatic habitat. In this case, rock riprap would not have accomplished the other project objectives. Considering that natural stream channel restoration is still a very new technology, the construction costs for Site 24 are very encouraging.

Project Hurdles

Most of the project hurdles such as coordination among the multiple partners and obtaining the

necessary environmental permits were overcome during the planning and design stages of the project. Work at Site 24 was simplified because only one landowner was involved, making it easy to obtain site access. Design and construction costs were kept within budget with the dedication of the project partners; conscientious planning and design by the design consultant; and a solid understanding of the principles and practices of natural stream channel restoration.

Environmental permitting was simplified by early involvement of the WV Department of Environmental Protection. Project challenges were overcome by involving all of the partners and interested parties throughout the planning, design and construction process.

Factors Influencing Future Success

The restoration of Site 24 was successfully planned, designed, and constructed, but it is too early to judge long-term success. The ultimate success of the project will require it to survive the test of time as the stream channel carries the gamut of storm flows. Some of the factors in determining overall success are dependent upon how nature reacts to our attempt to mimic natural processes of stream flow. Flooding in West Virginia occurs with regular frequency; 2004 was no exception. Within two months of the completed construction, Site 24 endured its first flood. During the heavy rainfalls from the fallout of Hurricane Ivan, Knapps Creek flooded in September 2004. Water flows exceeded bankfull depths overflowing onto the floodplains along the restored stream channel of Site 24. Fortunately, restored areas survived and functioned as intended. Time will tell how Site 24 performs during subsequent storms and larger rainfalls. Periodic maintenance may still be required to repair bank damage after large storms; at least until the restoration work has completely taken hold. Even 100% natural streams experience damage during unusual or infrequent storms.

Some other factors contributing to the success of this project are dependent upon how land uses are managed throughout the watershed, especially the upstream portions. The overall success of Site 24 and other planned sites along Knapps Creek require management and restoration efforts of the upstream watershed and the floodplain corridor along the creek. Individual landowners all along the creek can contribute to the success of the project by using best management practices, such as providing alternate water sources for livestock so they don't have to enter the stream; installing stable constructed crossings for equipment and livestock; using rotational grazing and light grazing on pastures; and isolating riparian areas to restrict grazing. Good management strategies promote stable stream systems and benefit sustained agricultural production.

Lessons Learned and Reinforced

The lessons learned from implementing Site 24 may not be as much new information as they are lessons reinforced. The planning, design and construction went smoothly, but it was not by accident. Good coordination and communications among the various partners greatly benefited the project. There was good buy-in and participation from everyone involved during the planning process, which paid dividends during the design and construction. A multidisciplinary team is essential to success. Individual partners included civil engineers, biologists, farmers, concerned citizens, environmental scientists, economists, resource conservationists, an archaeologist, planners, and others. The NRCS is committed to this multi-disciplinary approach and employs many of the experts required to complete challenging technical projects such as this one. Everyone involved played an important role in the successful completion of the restoration work at this first site.

The importance of communicating details of natural design elements to the contractor cannot be overemphasized. It is helpful to have thorough detailed drawings and to have the designer on-site during portions of the construction. As an example, it would be invaluable to have the designer present while the contractor builds the first rock vane on a project to ensure it is done correctly. Direct interaction between the contractor and designer is beneficial for both parties. In some cases, it is difficult to show the complete requirements via drawings and specifications. Regarding rock vanes, some of the details to be conveyed include having good rock-to-rock contact; proper construction to prevent flanking; proper depth and embedment of boulders in the channel; good footer rocks to hold the vanes and prevent scour; and attention to detail on the batter and stepping of the boulders to obtain the spillway/splash effects. On Site 24, the consulting engineer made site visits during the construction process and was available to answer questions throughout the process.

Another lesson re-learned is that natural stream channel design, despite outward appearances, is technically more complex and challenging than the traditional methods of channel design. This type of work is "deceptively simple." Viewing the finished product, one would never suspect the complexity of the technology that supports it. After all, we are really trying to emulate Mother Nature, and "she" has been at this for much longer than we have.

Summary

So far, the project has been a success. Site 24 has provided a starting point to build upon and to increase the knowledge base of the natural stream restoration process. This is the first of many potential restoration projects along Knapps Creek and in other locations in West Virginia.

Construction of the next Knapps Creek project site is scheduled for the summer of 2005. A third site is in the preliminary design stages. Using thorough documentation of the complete natural stream-channel design process, we are hoping to learn many things from this and future projects. Since natural design techniques are in their infancy compared to traditional structural approaches to stream channel stabilization, we are excited to see how they will perform over time.

For more information contact TJ Burr, PE, Civil Engineer, at the USDA NRCS state office in Morgantown, WV at (304) 2847596 or e-mail tee.burr@wv.usda.gov.

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Partnership Leads to Conservation Project on Greenbrier Valley Farm

The NRCS WHIP program is included in a cost-sharing and conservation planning partnership to manage a Greenbrier County farm. The 1,000-acre beef farm includes sinkholes, limestone outcrops, and creeks that disappear underground--making it evident that below is an extensive cave system. The partnership includes The Nature Conservancy, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Farm Service Agency, the West Virginia Division of Forestry, and the Division of Natural Resources.

"Almost 30 globally rare species, a couple of which exist nowhere else, are known to live beneath the ground in the Greenbrier Valley. The landowner wanted to work with us to conserve wildlife species—especially rare species inhabiting the cave system beneath her land—and keep the farm productive," said Beth Wheatley, The Nature Conservancy's Greenbrier Valley project manager.

Because preventing groundwater contamination from entering the caves was deemed to be a top priority, three miles of high-tensile solar-powered electric fence was installed to exclude cattle from the farm's sinking creeks, cave openings and sinkholes.

A West Virginia Public Broadcasting radio story on April 7, 2005 included an interview with Tom Vance, Acting Assistant State Conservationist for the South Area. Tom talked about dividing the land into grazing units which increase land productivity. "It enables farmers to rotate animals back and forth to better utilize the pasture and improves the quality of the pasture. Normally it helps to improve the carrying capacity by putting more animals on the farm."



A multiflora rose eradication effort was launched to improve habitat around the streams, sinkholes and cave entrances.

Volunteers are planting 1,000 native tree species, including alder, dogwood and pin oaks, to help stabilize the sinking creeks banks and provide habitat for birds.

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2005 Grassland Evaluation Contest

Submitted by Gary Redden and Katy McBride

The 2005 Grassland Evaluation Contest was held in Jackson's Mill on April 8 at the Nelson Bean farm in Lewis County. The judging site was typical pasture used for livestock grazing. A scenario with landowner's goals for livestock and wildlife production was provided along with appropriate soil survey information, aerial photos, maps, scorecards and other relative information. The contestants first determined the condition of the field then made corrective decisions based on sound agricultural practices compatible with the landowner's goals. The Grassland Evaluation program consists of four sections:

- Grassland Condition
- Soil Interpretation
- Wildlife Habitat
- Plant Identification

Each of these factors were considered in evaluating the pasture to best utilize the resource and to help make useful management decisions.

This year's contest, with 18 teams participating (14 were from West Virginia and 4 were from Ohio), was the largest in its five year history. This contest is for 4-H and FFA teams. Each member of the winning team receives a \$500 scholarship. This year's winning team was from Cabell Midland High School and they will represent West Virginia in the Mid America contest in Springfield, Missouri June 7th and 8th this summer. Each member of the second winning team receives a \$250 scholarship. The second place team was Roane County High School and third place team was from Ravenswood. The top scoring individual receives a \$500 scholarship. The High Scoring Individual from this year's contest was Eva Clinton from Roane County. If the team

from Cabell Midland is unable to represent West Virginia in the Mid America contest, the Roane County team will represent West Virginia.

Sponsors for this year's contest were WV Grassland Steering committee, NRCS, WVCA, WVU Cooperative Extension Service, Agricultural Research Service, Farm Bureau, RC&D councils, WV Conservation Districts, WV FFA, and many individuals offered their time and/or money in order to make this year's contest a success. Dixon Law and Jim Hill donated t-shirts to the top ten highest scoring individuals. The Farm Bureau donated plaques to the top two winning teams, top scoring individual, and the top winning team's advisor.

We would like to thank all of the individuals who assisted in making this year's contest a great success. Without their hard work, and commitment to this educational experience, would not be possible.

Top ten individuals are: (left to right)



1st row: Jacob Ruble, Ben Shamblin, Josh Hafer, Brian Clagg

2nd Row: Eva Clinton, Jenna Crow, 2005 WV Beef Queen, Gus Douglass, Sharon Tanner, Amanda Clagg.

Not pictured Josh Peplowski, and RJ Callaway



1st place team Cabell Midland:

(left to right) 2005 WV Beef Queen, Jacob Ruble, Tabitha Linville, Gus Douglass, Amanda Clagg, Brian Clagg



2nd place team Roane County:

(left to right) 2005 Beef Queen, Ben Shamblin, Eva Clinton, Brianne Jankiowski, Paul Cummings (advisor), Gus Douglass



3rd place team Ravenswood:

(left to right) 2005 Beef Queen, Josh Hafer, Jenna Crow, Sharon Tanner, Jacob Southall, Jason Miihlbach (advisor) and Gus Douglass

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2005 Landjudging

Submitted by Katy McBride

On Tuesday, April 26th, the Southern Conservation District and the Greenbrier Valley Conservation District held their 2005 Landjudging Contest at the Plant Materials Center in Alderson, West Virginia. Eleven teams participated:

- Monroe County (two FFA teams)
- Clay County (two teams)
- Greenbrier East (four teams)
- Shady Spring High School (SSHS) (three teams)

Landjudging is a high school competition that challenges students to gain a better understanding of soil structure and land evaluation. Landjudging, enables each participant to learn how to recognize the physical features of the soil, determine land capability for crop production, and evaluate management practices needed for proper stewardship. Landjudging is oriented to the conservation of agricultural land. The major factors affecting how the land can be used must be determined. These factors are used to correctly recommend conservation practices and fertilizers for conserving soil.

A team is made up of three or four members. The total of the top three scores made by the individual members of the team is the team score. All team members are eligible for individual and team prizes. Team members judge four fields previously selected by the judges. Each field is marked off with stakes or other boundary markers. At some point in the field, a pit or hole is dug, exposing the soil profile. From this profile, the contestant determines the texture, depth, degree of erosion, permeability, and internal drainage of the soil. After these soil properties are determined, land use interpretations can be made. In each field, two wooden stakes are set up to determine slope. The leaders give any information that is needed about each field. This may include the

original topsoil depth, pH or soil acidity, amount of available plant nutrients, and size of the field. Contestants are given 20 minutes to score each field. More information on landjudging may be found at <http://www.wvu.edu/~agexten/landrec/judging/>

The top 5 Landjudging Teams were:

- SSHS FFA Team 1
- Clay County Team A
- Clay County Team B
- SSHS Biology Team
- Greenbrier East Team 1

Top 10 Landjudging Individuals

- Zack Lovell, from SSHS FFA Team 1
- Titus Schoolcraft, from Clay County Team A
- RJ Callaway, from SSHS FFA Team 1
- Jacob Jones, from Clay County Team A
- JR Davis, from Clay County Team A
- Jesse Vance, from Clay County Team A
- LJ Cox, from SSHS FFA Team 1
- Jesse Foster, from Clay County Team B
- Thomas Young, from Clay County Team B
- Sandy Surgeon, from Greenbrier East Team 1

Homesite:

Many of the factors used in judging agricultural land are also applicable to evaluating sites where homes will be constructed.

Top 5 Homesite Teams:

- Clay County Team A

- SSHS FFA Team 1
- SSHS Biology Club
- Clay County Team B
- SSHS FFA Team 2

Top 10 Homesite Individuals:

- Titus Schoolcraft, from Clay County Team A
- Zack Lovell, from SSHS FFA Team 1
- Jacob Jones, from Clay County Team A
- Jesse Vance, from Clay County Team A
- JR Davis, from Clay County Team A
- Will Vincent, from SSHS Biology Club
- LJ Cox, from SSHS FFA Team 1
- RJ Callaway, from SSHS FFA Team 1
- Cherie Overmiller, from SSHS Biology Club
- Jarrod Dawson, from Clay County Team B

The Districts provided breakfast and lunch for everyone and the top five scoring individuals for both the landjudging and homesite received a hat. The top team for both the landjudging and homesite received a trophy; which were presented by Becki Irons with the GVCD. Winning state teams are eligible to participate in the National Landjudging Contest in Oklahoma.

I would like to thank John and Warren at the Plant Materials Center for their assistance in helping us prepare for this contest. I would also like to thank those employees from NRCS, WVCA, and the district supervisors for their help in making this contest a success.

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9th Annual WV Envirothon Continues Tradition of Excellence

Over 200 Students from Across the State Compete in Largest Event Yet

Submitted by Kevin Pauley

The rains held off on Thursday, April 28, as 42 teams from across the state, the largest amount in the history of the competition, participated in the 9th Annual WV Envirothon at Jackson's Mill in Weston, WV. Each team, consisting of five 9 – 12th grade students, was tested in the areas of Forestry, Wildlife, Soils and Aquatics. The tests were conducted outdoors, allowing the students a hands-on approach to learning. The top five teams gave oral presentations in an effort to show their understanding of local natural resource issues and to present solutions to these problems. Here are the results of the 2005 WV Envirothon:

- 1st Place: Shady Spring High School Biology Club
- 2nd Place: St. Marys FFA
- 3rd Place: Doddridge County High School Gold Team
- 4th Place: Preston County FFA Blue Team
- 5th Place: Ripley High School Environmental Science Class

A special award was given to St. Marys FFA as they were also the "Highest Scoring FFA Team." Also, the Most Enthusiastic Team Award was given to the Doddridge County High School Gold Team. The award was renamed last year to the "Mary Lee Hines Most Enthusiastic Team," in honor of Mary Lee Hines, a member of the State Conservation Committee and a devoted supporter of the WV Envirothon. Along with this, the Ripley High School Environmental Science Class was awarded the "Rookie Team of the Year," due to their scores being higher than any other first-year team.

As a result of winning first place, the Shady Spring High School Biology Club will represent West Virginia in the 2005 Canon Envirothon in Springfield, Missouri, this summer. Shady Spring High School received a \$3,000 scholarship from Weyerhaeuser, as well. St. Marys FFA received a \$2,000 scholarship from the West Virginia County Farm Bureaus and the Doddridge County High School Gold Team received a \$1,000 scholarship from American Electric Power. Carhartt, Incorporated will provide Shady Spring team members with jackets to wear at the international Canon Envirothon, which consists of teams from across the United States and Canada.

Photos of all teams, the day's events and the winning teams are available for viewing and downloading from the WV Conservation Agency's website at http://www.wvca.us/gallery/2005_envirothon

NRCS participation included Ron Hilliard as an oral presentation judge; Carlos Cole, Greg Kist, and Carol Lagodich staffed the soils station; and Barbara McWhorter worked at the Forestry station. Recent retiree Kelley Sponaugle coached the winning Shady Spring High School Biology Club.



Ron Hilliard (center) listening to oral presentations



Recent retiree Kelley Sponaugle (left) coached the winning Shady Spring High School Biology Club.

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A Partner in Conservation Since 1935



The Natural Resources Conservation Service marked its 70th anniversary on April 27, 2005. The anniversary theme is *A Partner in Conservation Since 1935*. Hugh Hammond Bennett led the soil conservation movement in the United States in the 1920s and 1930s. He urged the nation to address the "national menace" of soil erosion in response to the devastation of the Dust Bowl, and created a new federal agency and served as its first chief.

As noted by a contemporary, Bennett "combined science with showmanship" to convince the country that soil erosion was a serious problem that merited national attention. When a dust storm from the Great Plains moved over Washington, D.C., Bennett was testifying before a Congressional committee on the bill that would create the Soil Conservation Service. He knew the storm was coming and used it to dramatically demonstrate the need for soil conservation.

Congress decided to take action. On April 27, 1935 the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) was established in the Department of Agriculture to help landowners carry out soil conservation practices. The SCS' name changed to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to reflect its efforts to conserve natural resources in 1994. The [Conservation Milestones Fact Sheet](#) has more important dates in conservation.

Quotes



Out of the long list of nature's gifts to man, none is perhaps so utterly essential to human life as soil.

Too many people have lost sight of the fact that productive soil is essential to the production of food.

These quotes from Hugh Hammond Bennett are as relevant today as they were when he spoke them more than a half century ago. More quotes may be found at:

https://my.nrcs.usda.gov/PortalStatic/70th_Anniversary/Hugh_Bennett_Quotes.pdf

Video

A 4:58 minute video and DVD, called *A Partner in Conservation*, is available. Contact [Carol Lagodich](#) if you'd like to borrow a copy. It may also be seen on your computer screen by going to <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/seventiethannv.html>

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The Earth Team Celebrates 20 Years

The Earth Team celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. In 1985, when the Farm Bill increased the agency's workload, leadership encouraged all states to begin using the National Volunteer Program to help achieve the agency's mission. The National Volunteer Program became the Earth Team – the volunteer arm of NRCS. The purpose of the Earth Team is to expand NRCS services by using volunteer time, talent, and energy to help meet agency needs.

Here are some questions to ask a volunteer. This will help us find the best fit for the volunteer's interests.

Why are you volunteering?

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| • Self Improvement | • Creativity |
| • Work Experience | • Leadership |
| • Recognition | • Something to do |
| • Socialization | • Good cause |
| • Sense of duty | • Other |

How do you like to work when you volunteer?

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• From home• In an office• Outdoors | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• With other people• Solo |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

What type of volunteer opportunity are you looking for?

- One-time commitment for a specific cause/project
- On a semi-regular basis with a lower commitment time, such as 8 hours a month
- On-call - being notified when there is a need
- Regular set schedule with a long-term commitment

What types of skills or interests do you have? What would you like to learn more about?

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Farming• Livestock• Crops• Trees• Gardening• Hiking• Outdoors• Horticulture• Research• Natural history• Biology• Graphic design | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Computer• Internet• Photography• Public relations• Special events• Teaching• Earth science• Trail maintenance• Landscaping• Office support (filing, data entry, copy | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writing• Editing• Nature• Community• Mentoring• Hands-on activities• Outdoor work• Animals• Education• Public speaking• Other |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

	work)	
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What type of volunteering do you like to do?

- Work directly with people (direct-service)
- Work behind-the-scenes (supporting staff)
- Work on special events

What department would you be interested in learning more about, and which do you think your skills are best suited for?

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resource Conservation and Development Areas (RC&D)• Field Offices• Water Resources• Engineering: Civil, Agricultural, Hydrologic• Financial Management• Administrative• Human Resources• Contracting/Purchasing• Conservation Programs• Agricultural Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Soil Surveys• GIS• Research• Botany• Biology• Archaeology• Forestry• Agronomy• Public Affairs
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

When are you available to volunteer?

- Weekdays only (a.m. or p.m.?)
- Weekends only
- Anytime

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Bits and Pieces

West Virginia Farmers' Connections Guide 2004



The second edition of the WV Farmers' Connections Guide published by the West Virginia AgrAbility Project is available on line at <http://www.cedwvu.org/programs/agrability/connections/connectionshome.html>. This guide is a resource for farmers and farm families in West Virginia. It contains contact information about both state and national resources related to agriculture including livestock, food and products, assistive technology, equipment dealers, and grange.

The AgrAbility Project is a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) funded program established to assist farmers and farm families who, because of occupational and personal accidents or illnesses, need to find ways to accommodate their farms or farm equipment in order to remain active in agriculture.

Retired SCS employee writes about Childhood Days on Farm

The spring 2005 issue of *Goldenseal* has an article by retired SCS employee John Cooper titled *Young Days on our Stone Lick Farm* describing his childhood in Gilmer County. John, a former district conservationist in Mason Co, retired in the late 70's. Sam Sheets, District Conservationist in Spencer, commented "When I was a young Soil Conservationist, John had the reputation of having one of the best if not the best public relations program in the state. He was both an excellent photographer and writer and had weekly feature articles about people he was working with at the time".

Goldenseal is the magazine of West Virginia traditional life, is produced by the Division of Culture and History and takes its stories from the recollections of West Virginians

living throughout the state. The website is <http://www.wvculture.org/index.aspx>

Publications are again available

Publications are again available from the National NRCS Publications Distribution Center. The most popular request this past winter was *Ponds—Planning, Design, and Construction*. A box was sent to Morgantown. Contact [Carol Lagodich](#) want copies sent to you.

National NRCS Publications Distribution Center Taking Telephone Orders

April 14, 2005 - The 1-888-LANDCARE (National NRCS Publications Distribution Center) office moved during December 2004, however our online publications order web page remains unavailable as it is being re-designed. We hope to be back online soon to take publication orders.

If you need publications while the web site is down, please place a telephone order by calling 1-888-LANDCARE. Orders can also be placed by sending an email request to: Venessa.Alvarado@ia.usda.gov

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Useful Web Links

My.NRCS



My.NRCS ([https:// my.nrcs.usda.gov/](https://my.nrcs.usda.gov/)) is a site to add to your bookmarks. Login using your Web-TCAS ID and password, then explore the seven tabs at the top of the page that offer *NRCS Today*, *myNRCS*, *Programs*, *Technology*, *Accountability*, *CIS*, and *Field Tools*. Your time sheet may be accessed from the field tool tab. Click on the calendar, specify West Virginia, to see whats going on. My.NRCS ([https:// my.nrcs.usda.gov/](https://my.nrcs.usda.gov/)) is an employee intranet site for all your NRCS information needs.

Employee Personnel Page

With the Employee Personal Page (EPP) you can view your payroll, leave, travel, health and life insurance, savings bond, and other personal information, read news items from your agency or NFC, and link to your favorite sites. The Self-Service option is available for employees whose agency has elected to offer this option. You can change your Residence Address, Federal and State Tax withholding, Financial Allotments, and Direct Deposit information. <https://www.nfc.usda.gov/>

TSP Open Season

The last Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) open season will be April 15 – June 30, 2005. The effective date of these changes will be June 12, 2005. (If processed before the 12th) Beginning July 1, 2005 contribution elections may be processed at any time of the year. The effective date will be the first-full pay period after the change is filed, either with HR or on the Website. Allocations between funds or interfund transfers can be made at any time by using this Web site or the ThriftLine. There is no change to the contribution limits (FERS-15%; CSRS-10% nor the IRS tax limits (2005=\$14,000). For more information visit the TSP website: <http://www.tsp.gov/>

Employee Assistance Program

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is a free, confidential service available to all employees. Job effectiveness can be adversely affected when employees are faced with the mental or emotional problems, family responsibilities, financial or legal difficulties, or dependent care needs. In addition to substance abuse problems, most agency EAPs provide comprehensive counseling and referral services to help employees achieve a balance between their work and family and other personal responsibilities. The EAP can be extremely important in the prevention of, and intervention in, workplace violence incidents; the delivery of critical incident stress debriefings; and providing assistance to employees during agency restructuring. Our EAP provider is:

The Sand Creek Group,
Ltd.
610 North Main Street
Suite 200
Stillwater, Minnesota
55082

Telephone
1-651-430-3383
1-888-243-5744
Fax 1-651- 430-9753
Email info@sandcreekeap.com

http://www.pb.nrcs.usda.gov/intranet/info_brochure.pdf

2005 Salary Tables and Related Information can be found at <http://www.opm.gov/oca/05tables/>

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Meet . . .



Herb Andrick is the new Assistant State Conservationist –Programs

Herb Andrick, a native West Virginian, grew up on a family farm near Palestine in Wirt County. He received an Associate in Science Degree in 1979 from Potomac State College followed by a BS degree in Resource Management in 1981 from West Virginia University.

Herb started his career with the SCS as a Student Trainee in 1980. He worked as a Soil Conservationist in the Philippi and Harrisville Field Offices before becoming the District Conservationist in Philippi. *USDA News* featured Herbs work to develop the rubber tire trough as a conservation practice. Herbs work with a deaf farmer appeared in *Soil and Water Conservation News*. Herb came to the West Virginia State Office in 1996 as the FOCS/GIS Specialist. In 2003, he became a Resource Conservationist working with the Farm Bill. Herb is now the State Conservationist for Programs, a position he was acting in since Jim Piper's retirement.

Herb is a member of the WV Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society and held offices of Treasurer, President-elect, President, and Past President. He served on the National Program Committee for the 2001 Nation SWCS Meeting.

Herb and his wife Debbie have four children: Scott 32, Courtney 24, Caleb 15 and Elizabeth 14 along with three grandchildren: Ivy Rose 5, Nathan 3 and William 11 months.



Greg Stone is the new Assistant State Conservationist–Field Operations in the South Area Office

Greg is a graduate of West Virginia University receiving a Bachelors of Science in Agriculture in 1980. In 1997 Greg graduated with a Masters of Divinity from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and was ordained as Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA). He has served the Powhatan Point Presbyterian Church in Ohio as Pastor for 12 of his 15 years in the Northern Panhandle.

Before going to the Northern Panhandle as District Conservationist, Greg started his career as a Student Trainee in Clarksburg. Greg served as a Soil Conservationist in Keyser and in Kingwood before moving to Caldwell, Ohio to take his first District Conservationist's job.

Greg and his wife Beth have five children (3 boys and 2 girls) and three grandchildren



Bill O'Donnell is the new Assistant State Conservationist –Operations

Bill in the Afghanistan desert.

- Born August 22, 1957 in Bakersfield, California.
- Graduated from high school in 1975.
- Attended Bakersfield Junior College for 2 years, majoring in fun.
- Took three years off from college to fight forest fires and work at ski resorts, more fun.
- Went back to college at the University of Nevada - Reno. Graduated in 1983 with a degree in Range Management.
- Started with the agency in 1983 at Reno, Nevada doing range condition and soil/ range site assessment work on the Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation.
- 1984 was reassigned to the Caliente, NV FO to provide soil/ range site

assessment work on the Lincoln County South soil survey.

- 1986 was selected as a DC in Fossil, OR. To get to Fossil you know exactly where you are going, or, you're lost when you got there and need directions to some place else.
- 1990 transferred to a DC position in La Grande, OR.
- 1992 promoted to the DC position in Richfield, UT. My offices covered 6 counties in the central part of the state.
- 1996 transferred to the DC position in Las Vegas, NV. The fastest growing community in the nation. LV averages 7,000 new residents each month. To keep up with the student population the school district has to average building 12 elementary schools, 3 middle schools and 1 high school each year.
- 2001 promoted to the Assistant State Conservationist - Field Operations position in West Union, IA, the prettiest part of the state.
- August 2004 - February 2005 detailed to Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan. I worked with the central government Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources in 5 northern provinces. My residence while in Afghanistan with the British Army. There were 10 different nations represented at this Provincial Reconstruction Team military compound. (see agriculture photos below).
- April 2005, started here. Family will arrive here after school ends in Iowa, sometime the first part of June.



Cotton picking
Afghans



Proposed flood
control project site



Wooden plow and
farmer



Wool Spinning Wheel
and Combing Demo
Andkhoy Intl Carpet
Exhibit

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Lillian Woods goes to DC

Lillian Woods, West Virginia State Conservationist from 2002 to 2005, joined the staff of the Deputy Chief for Science and Technology in Washington, D.C. Her new position is the National Technology Support Coordinator. Lillian will be coordinating NRCS' technology acquisition, development, and transfer activities among National Centers, National Headquarters divisions, and partner agencies and organizations.

Lillian began her career with the former Soil Conservation Service in 1983, serving in various Conservationist positions in Kansas, Minnesota, Maryland, and Washington, D.C. before becoming the Assistant State Conservationist in Indiana. Lillian also served as Director of the Pacific Basin Area and as a Strategic Planner in Madison, Wisconsin, before becoming State Conservationist in West Virginia in 2002.



Lillian Woods was honored at a going away get together in Morgantown. Steve Carpenter presents Lillian with a shadow box.

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Congratulations, Marlene

Submitted by Debbie Chase

Photo by Becky Strogon



Marlene (McDaniel) Menear, former editor on the MO-13 staff in Morgantown, was honored by friends, coworkers, and family members at a retirement dinner at the Preston County Country Club on Saturday, April 9, 2005. Steve Carpenter (State Soil Scientist and MO-13 Leader) and Dave Kingsbury (MO-13 Soil Data Quality Specialist) served as Masters of Ceremonies.

Steve presented Marlene, an avid collector of WV glassware, a Fenton cranberry glass vase that was inscribed with her name, years of service, and the agency name. The vase was signed by a member of the Fenton family. Steve expressed his appreciation for Marlene's valuable contributions to MO-13 soil surveys. Dave Kingsbury took a cell phone "call" from NASCAR driver Hideo Fukuyama, who was on his way to the dinner but got delayed at the RAMP dinner in Masontown. Charlotte Wertz (SAO) presented Marlene with several gifts reminiscent of shared experiences through their NRCS careers, and a beautiful angel figurine. Other gifts included a Dale Earnhardt, Jr. T-shirt, flowers, and a "Retirement Fund" pot full of cash from Marlene's nephew Corey.

Marlene began her SCS/NRCS career as a clerk in the Contracting Section in 1974, and then was purchasing agent from 1982 to 1990. She was a financial clerk in the Business and Finance section until the reorganization of NRCS in 1995, when she was reassigned to the MO-13 staff as an editor. Marlene also served as State Office Safety Officer and as State Office Volunteer Coordinator for many years.

Marlene retired November 27, 2004. She and Ray plan to continue to spend time at Big Bear Lake, show their vintage Mustang at area shows, see friends at the monthly buffet

breakfast at the Kingwood VFD, and enjoy trips to the WV State Fair and other destinations. Congratulations to Marlene and best wishes to both her and Ray for a long, happy, healthy retirement.

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Lynn Shutts Retires

Submitted by Pamela Yost



Lynn Shutts, Environmental and Biological Science Specialist in the West Virginia State Office, was honored on his last day of work on April 29.

Lynn began his career with the Soil Conservation Service 37+ years ago as a Soil Conservation Aide in Parkersburg. He also worked in Huntington, Hamlin and Moorefield Field Offices as a Soil Conservationist. In 1974, Lynn joined the Water Resources Staff as a biologist and has served that staff the remainder of his career.

Lynn has worked on every project that has come through planning since he joined the staff – Howard Creek, Lost River, Wheeling Creek, North & South Mill Creek, and many others. Lynn's jobs through the years consisted of taking care of environmental permitting, NEPA compliance, mitigation plans, writing EIS's and EA's, answering congressional correspondence. Lynn was key to the success of North Fork Hughes River project. Through the long court battle and endless scrutiny of the National Rivers Coalition, Lynn kept on track and worked us through it. Lynn also was a lynchpin in the battle over Lost River Site 4.

Some of Lynn's more unique tasks have been included production of a watershed video – requiring Lynn to sit captive in a production studio (actually it was a camping trailer with no windows and no bathroom) for long periods of time. He also had to do extensive zebra mussel research for the North Fork Hughes River Project at Alum Creek State Park in Ohio.

In true "planning" fashion, Lynn often has a moon pie tucked in his pocket for those meetings that run too long. We hope to see him back here as an Earth Team volunteer.



The gifts Lynn's received gifts conveyed his love of fishing

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Bridging the Gap Between our Differences, Promote Diversity



Woodblock prints, called ukiyo-e, illustrate everyday life in historic Japan. Ando Hiroshige (1797-1858) created prints of the Tokaido highway, the main road in feudal Japan. This scene shows warrior lords crossing a bridge over the Yahagi River.

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Personnel Updates

Submitted by Lonnie Williams

Name	Action	Location	Change
Andrick, Herb	Promotion Effective 04/17/2005	Morgantown SO GS-457-13	ASTC-Programs
Bauerbach, David	New Hire Effective 03/20/2005	Parkersburg AOGS-802-7	Civil Engineering Technician
Bennett, Jeremy	Transfer 02/20/2005	Buckeye FO	
Bishop, Beth	Promotion Effective 04/03/2005	Morgantown SO GS-203-7	Budget Analyst GS-560-9
Fisher, Jessica	Promotion Effective 03/20/2005	Moorefield GS- 457-9	
Flanagan, Rebecca	Promotion Effective 03/20/2005	Wheeling GS-457- 7	
Henderson, Lorenzo	Transfer	NHQ	
Kist. Greg	Promotion Effective 01/09/2005	Parkersburg AOGS-457-13	ASTC-Field Operations
Knox, Nathan	Promotion 03/06/2005	Morgantown SO GS-457-7	
McClure, Jeff	New Hire Effective 02/06/2005	Morgantown SO GS-1350-12	Geologist

O'Donnell, William	Reassignment Effective 04/03/2005	West Union, IA GS-457-13	Morgantown SO ASTC – Operations
Ross, Christi N.	Promotion Effective 03/20/2005	Romney GS-457-9	
Williams, Lonnie	New Hire Effective 03/06/2005	Morgantown SO GS-203-5	Human Resources Assistant
Woods, Lillian	Transfer 03/20/2005	NHQ	Ntl. Technology Support Coordinator

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